

LES VOYAGEURS

DE

LA VERENDRYE

Report - for 1960

Submitted by:

Roger Wilson

*from material supplied
by Gus Oki
Tayagum Camp District*

1441 Drummond St.
Room 514
Montreal, Que.

January 3rd, 1961

Metro Y.M.C.A.
Camp Office
1441 Drummond St.
Montreal, Que.

Attention, Mr. A. Ross Seaman

Dear Sir:

Early in February 1960 the first meeting of the staff for Les Voyageurs was held, and in three successive meetings the preliminary plans were laid.

During the months of May and June one member of the crew was hired full time to do promotion and purchasing.

On June 26th, the crew assembled at Kamp Kanawana for a week's training. The following week we moved to La Verendrye Park, and the week following that, the first Voyageurs arrived. They were followed in three weeks by the second group.

Upon closing camp, four days were spent at Kamp Kanawana. This time was spent in storing equipment and evaluation sessions at which time notes were taken; the elaboration of which formulates this report.

It was the hope of the staff that the evaluation sessions and the report would serve as a guide for next year's operation. The recommendations are made after a summer's experience on the job, and it is hoped they will aid in solving problems in future years.

The recommendations and suggestions made have been incorporated into the body of the report in order to aid understanding. A section is dealt with as it was this year, and as we suggest it be handled next.

Contributions to this report were made by the six staff members and the campers, and were recorded in the evaluation sessions.

Yours respectfully,

Roger Wilson

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I - PRE-CAMP - GENERAL PREPARATION AND COMMENTS

A - Promotion:

A publicity folder was produced for the Voyageurs by Gerry Wright of the Metropolitan Y.M.C.A. Public Relations Office, in co-operation with Jack Organ of the Voyageurs. Jack was the only leader with previous experience with the Voyageurs, and had pictures and ideas which aided greatly in the production of this folder. Three thousand copies were received by March 15th, and distribution was made to all previous Voyageurs, all senior campers of Kamp Kanawana who the previous year were recommended by the Section Director and the Section Program Director, and to all the Y.M.C.A. branches in Montreal. Several copies were sent to other adults who it was felt might be interested in Voyageur programs in their own camps or who had an interest in camping. - See Appendix #1 for folder.

If possible in future years, personal contact is felt to be the best way to sell camp. Talking to parents and boys will stimulate more interest. This will require the establishment of contacts with schools and various adult groups. X

B - Organization:

The original organization was piloted by Jack Organ and Ross Seaman. The staff hiring was started by Ross, and at the end of April, four trippers and a business manager were hired. The Director was hired later. The trippers were Jack Organ, Glenn Lane, Art Perry and Roger Wilson; business manager was Frank Carpenter, and Gus Oki became the Director. The trippers all entered third year Arts the next fall, and Frank, second year Science, and Gus began work on his Doctors degree. This indicates the high calibre of staff hired for this project, and this fact went a long way in making the summer a success.

All arrangements re food and equipment were handled by Jack in conjunction with Ross, as were the arrangements with regard to facilities in the Park.

C - Purchasing:

With respect to this item, reference will be made in the area of equipment and food in their respective sections. Obviously the difficulty of having nothing definite to base the purchasing on is a real problem. No doubt subsequent years will see this major problem largely reduced.

The purchasing this year was left so late that deliveries were delayed and exchanges for mistakes in delivery could not be made. The feeling was that the delivery deadline should be the first week in June, and the order checked then. This would leave time to exchange goods if they were the wrong size or type. This is essential to avoid mistakes. X

D - Site & Tripping Area:

The selection of a suitable base camp site which is located centrally to good tripping territory is necessary in an operation like the Voyageurs. This will become more evident in the section of this report on the Site. Lack of time prior to the opening of camp limited the selection of a suitable site, but present familiarity with the area will make it possible to recommend a new site.

E - Camp Periods:

Generally speaking the Pre-camp period is difficult to assess, both in terms of what was attempted and how effective it was. Except in the area of staff training no one of the eventual staff (with one exception) was involved in any pre-camp activities. This is inevitable to an extent, but it would be beneficial if not essential that subsequent years will see greater involvement of other staff members in pre-camp programs.

Discussion took place around this topic and the feeling was that the length of the periods was fine, but some break between the two periods was necessary for the staff's benefit.

This year, there was only a twenty-four hour break, and it was felt this was not long enough. Three weeks had been spent with the same group of boys and some time was needed to forget this group, and begin thinking towards a new fresh group.

Time is required to do the preliminary mental thinking and planning necessary before facing a new group of boys. Also in this break a trip to town (Maniwaki) is suggested for a good meal and a change of atmosphere. This takes a day, and one day should be spent visiting people in the area. This provides a welcome change and is also interesting. After this variety and change, the leaders should be fresh and ready to take on the second group. Relaxation and change are the necessity here.

The suggested timing for the summer is along the lines of eleven or twelve days for the staff together in the Park prior to campers arriving for the first three week period recommended for new campers or those not familiar with the bush; a full three day break and the final four week period for old and experienced campers. This set-up would mean one or the other of the groups would leave for camp in the middle of the week. It was suggested that this would inconvenience parents wanting to get away for holidays on the weekend. However, it was further suggested that the weekend-changeover - days were a tradition of Kanawana, and that many other camps had changeover days in mid-week at no apparent inconvenience to parents. Advance knowledge of this fact by parents would eliminate most problems, and we feel many will not even realize or be concerned by the change.

II - STAFF

Generally speaking this was the most satisfactory area of the operation this summer. Recognizing the fact that this was the first year of the camp, it was fortunate that such a competent staff of leaders was available

A- Recruiting:

The recruiting of men of this calibre, however, was essential considering the many "unknowns" that were to be encountered. With no patterns or systems previously established, the leaders had many demands placed on them that would not exist in subsequent operations. Thus it is of crucial importance to retain the staff if at all possible. Familiarity will minimize the routine demands of the leaders' role and will allow them to concentrate on the more ultimate objectives.

B - Training:

With respect to pre-job training, some of the staff participated in a program during the winter and the whole group took part in a more specific training experience during two weeks prior to the beginning of camp. The winter program was in the nature of a general "sensitizing" experience, the value of this cannot be established but it is probably safe to say that some growth occurred.

However, as mentioned above, the staff will make or break this operation. The kind of experience that the campers have will depend almost exclusively on the nature and quality of leadership that is provided for them by the staff.

In relationship to Kamp Kanawana, it may be wise to do the following:

- a - Clearly establish the existing formal and informal relationships as to staff, budget, equipment, facilities, materials.
- b - Clearly establish the existing formal and informal relationship as to Lay Committee, the Montreal Y.M.C.A. generally.
- c - That the relationship of the Voyageur's Camp to Kamp Kanawana, insofar as traditions, customs, staff organization, etc be clarified as much as possible.

C - Supervision:

The supervision provided the staff, both by the Director of Camping for Montreal and the Director of the Voyageur Camp itself probably wasn't adequate insofar as the needs of the staff was concerned. Some of these inadequacies were a direct result of the newness of the situation. Others, however, probably could have been minimized by better preparation and organization.

In the area of skilled training, there wasn't too much need for either training or supervision. This speaks well for the original selection of personnel. However, skill-proficiency isn't the basic requirement, although it is an essential, particularly in the "bush" setting.

III - EQUIPMENT

From the previous year when only three groups operated, there were three sets or pieces of each part of the equipment. This, due to expansion had to be increased to four. The individual items have been grouped and will be described in detail. For a total list of each group's equipment see Appendix #3.

A - Canoes & Paddles etc:

We received delivery of four canoes at the end of June. They were purchased from the Chestnut Canoe Company of New Brunswick; three being of the Prospector model and one being a 16' Canvas "V" back which was equipped with a three horse-power Evenrude motor. The "V" back was poorly constructed and was returned for a replacement after camp closed.

The feelings of the camp were that for ordinary tripping the canvas covered canoes were fine, but after experiencing some rough tripping, it was felt that Aluminum or double ribbed canvas covered canoes should be investigated. X

The possibility of having mast fittings was suggested and this although not essential, would be handy. After the season's use, all the canoes should be sanded and repainted. Special care should be taken in order to keep weight down, thorough sanding is therefore essential. X

The paddles which the boys brought were on the most part sufficient and in the event that a boy did not have one, the paddles which came with the canoes were borrowed. This setup was quite satisfactory.

B - Packs:

Six new Woods "1 packs were purchased, and these were the same as the ones already on hand. Some repairs are needed and these should be determined by inspection early in the spring.

Twenty-five army surplus packs were bought for carrying personals and these worked well.

One group had an army mess bag for utensils, and it was suggested that these would be good for all groups.

Discussion took place with regard to the advisability of wooden boxes for carrying supplies for kitchen use. The box would have built-in areas for various equipment like pots, dishes utensils and could even include an area for butter and jam containers and bread if there was room. No design was made up, and the size would depend on equipment to go into it. The reason for this type of thing was that the ordinary packs with this type of equipment require extensive planning in packing. The box would have straps for portaging and to hang it on a tree in camp.

The rubberized bags for food were good, but the feeling is that twenty per group are needed and not ten as are now available.

A supply of canvas bags would also help. There are some things which might damage the rubber ones and canvas would be better. Six per group was the recommended number.

C - Cooking and Eating:

The pots were good. We had three per group and they were of the 3, $4\frac{1}{2}$, 7 & $9\frac{1}{2}$ quart size. The need was felt for four per group, and one must be the large $9\frac{1}{2}$ quart size. The present frying pans were fine.

The plastic Kamp Kanawana dishes should be replaced by porcelain plates and bowls. Plastic cups were however, recommended as they were cooler to hold.

A spare set of cutlery per group is a good idea as well as another large serving spoon, giving each group two.

The small metal crank can-openers were recommended rather than the type with handles. It was felt that the less complicated the machine the less could go wrong with it.

D - Tools:

1. Axe - The axes carried, varied with each tripper, and it is recommended that the axe taken be left to the tripper's discretion. It was suggested that leather cases with buckle flaps be purchased and leather thongs could be sewn to the case, so the axe could be tied to the canoe gunnel
2. Files - A file is needed for axe sharpening and two per group are recommended. X
3. Reflector Ovens - Two new ones were purchased. One of the old ones must be replaced and a new design or type is suggested. The cost of these is high, and a cheaper aluminum model should be looked into. Trays should be bigger - large enough to hold two metal pie-plates. Heavy Aluminum foil would also aid here.
4. Machete & Entrenching tools - Each group had one of each. The Entrenching tool was a valuable item but little use could be found for the Machete.

E - Tents:

The tents were sail-silk, and the three original 12' x 14' x 4' models were supplimented by two 10' x 12' x 4' of the same material. Trouble was had with tabs and grommets which pulled loose. These should be reinforced and a small repair kit be purchased for base-camp. The possibility of reinforcing the ridge of the fly with canvas should be investigated.

The mosquito netting in the tents is very poor. It is poorly sewn in and does not fit. It is suggested that the job be redone, and a better quality netting be used. The type that lifts up is better than the one that opens down the centre, but it must be full enough to be lifted to get under and also tie up.

There are a few minor repairs to be made on tents and flys, but these can be examined and done in the spring.

F - Miscellaneous:

- 1 - "Nu-weld" glue was carried and it was found that "Ambroid" glue is much better and has more uses.
- 2 - First-aid kits should be waterproof and should contain aspirin or 2'22's. See Appendix #4 for list of articles carried and recommendations.
- 3 - Butcher twine or Pine-tar twine is recommended over Binder-twine but Pine-tar may be best as it is less expensive.

IV - FOOD

A total list of food for one group is listed in Appendix #5, and the recommended menu is Appendix #6. The items of food will be listed, evaluated and recommended changes made in this section.

A - Breakfasts:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Suggestion</u>
1. Orange juice	good	- more variety - try lemon or grapefruit
2. Coffee	good	- medium size bottles and not small ones.
3. Tea	poor in bulk	- bags are a must.
4. Bacon	poor size tin	- whole tin must be eaten at once or slab side bacon. (serve every day)
5. Eggs	fresh only, used	- check various types of powdered and serve every day.
6. Cold cereal	Grapenuts good-	also for lunches.
7. Hot cereal	oatmeal & cream of wheat good	- check on others for variety - important
8. Pancakes	Teabisk type is best	- If cost is comparable use it over Aunt Jemima
9. Dates, prunes & raisins, apricots	Good for snacks	- more - supply in bulk and pack selves

B - Lunches:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Suggestion</u>
1. Mix-ade	fine	- order the same
2. Milk shakes	good for treat	- " " "
3. Cheese	good	- need more if for sandwiches. Order in bulk and package
4. Soup	good	- need more quantity and variety. dried best
5. Kraft Dinner	good	- Need 3 per meal for 6 fellows. Might buy in bulk
- 6. Veg-a-rice	good	- order again
7. Soup vegetables	good	- best as just a vegetable not used in soup
- 8. Ginger & Corn bread	good	- should have more
9. Pork & Beans	good	- re-order
10. Canned fruit	not used for lunches	- would add variety

C - Supper:

1. Fish	fine	- no more than one meal scheduled per week
2. Potatoes	good	- re-order
3. Ham	good	- can size is too big. should be finished in one meal.
4. Canned beef	good	- re-order plus more canned meat.
5. Rice	good	- good in place of potatoes.
6. Irish stew	good	-look for a brand with more meat e.g. Puritan or Chuckwagon
7. Beef & Gravy	good	- re-order
8. Weiners	good	- re-order
9. Hamburgers	good	- re-order
10. Vegetables:		
(i) Turnips	good	-) all dehydrated and
(ii) Beets	good) good on trips
(iii) Carrots	good)
(iv) Peas	good	-) cans were heavy
(v) Bean	good) suggest their use only
(vi) Mixed veg.	good) in base camp. Not to be carried.

11. Desserts -

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| (i) Apples | -) | Suggest dehydrated where |
| (ii) Pudding (Gumperts) |) | possible and these to be |
| (iii) Peaches |) | used on trips. The heavy |
| (iv) Plums |) | cans are best used in Base |
| (v) Pears |) | camp. |
| (vi) Rhubarb |) | |
| (vii) Apricots |) | |
| (viii) Cherries |) | |

D. - Miscellaneous

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Suggestion</u>
1. Milk	good	- suggest buying bulk - approx 100 lbs.
2. Jam	good	- suggest buying bulk and put into containers on own. See recommendation for containers.
3. Bravo	good	- smaller size cans
4. Salt		- less is needed
5. Honey	good	- more if possible - or corn syrup.
6. Shortening	good	-) can be balanced for
7. Olive Oil	good) frying.
) need both
8. Cinnamon	good	- need more
9. Sugar	good in bulk	- need more
10. Soap	good type	- quantity fine
11. Hot Chocolate	McLeans is good	- need more
12. Mustard	good	- better in a plastic container
13. Liquid Detergent	good	- good containers
14. Pepper	good	- re-order
15. S.O.S.	good	- re-order
16. Teabisk	good	- need more, especially if used for pancakes

E. - Added Recommendations:

1. Bakers Chocolate - would be a good treat and source of energy. Quantity of one a day per person. Difficulty may be storage.
2. Corn Syrup - good if in a sealed plastic container.
3. Ketchup - also if in a container
4. Variety of spices - will add to meal taste. Needed only in a small quantity.

It will be noted that for many items, plastic containers are recommended. It is suggested that these resemble the containers now containing soap (vitsin). These are of a durable plastic and have a screw top. The "Vitsin" people could be investigated and their supplier approached. These containers are not only suggested but are essential for the transportation of some of the goods mentioned.

V - SITE

A. Base Camp

This year we developed the camps first on location base camp. The previous year there was no base camp in the north, and so the establishment of the base camp was another experimental step.

We were located this year at the lumber camp at the end of the access road cutting of the Barriere road at mile 10.2. It is about 7 miles from the Barriere road and on the shores of Lake Nanouatan, just southeast of the washout. As previously stated, it was on the site of an old lumber camp, and two of the camp buildings were taken over, fixed up, and used for a supply shack and base cabin.

Although the site was convenient to mail, supplies and bus line services - 17 miles one way - the site had many drawbacks. The lake is locked by rapids up and down stream. The site is sandy making camping dirty. The lower exit from the lake is into the Dozois Reservoir, which is a poor tripping area. The surrounding country has been logged, and much of the natural beauty is lost. Lake Nanouatan is a popular fishing area and many tourists come into the region. It was the group feeling that we should be in a more "bush" area where a real "bush camp" could be established, as much camping enjoyment should be derived from base camp as from the trail. This was certainly not the case this year.

After much discussion and disagreement, the recommendations we submit for next year are as follows:

- Relocation in the Nanouatan areas, but not the same site.
- Investigate laws re leases, and the existing leases in the area.
- This may disclose an area which could be leased by the Y.M.C.A.
- Investigate the cutting plans of the C.I.P. (Canadian International Paper). This will insure that an area chosen will not be cut over in the next few years so again losing the "bush" setting.
- It was the general feeling that one more year would be necessary to make a reliable decision on base camp establishment.
- Opinions of the group in general lean to location on Indian Lake. This site is about 80 miles from the highway, making it about 90 miles from the closest store on the highway. However, a group of campers known as "Adventurers Unlimited" have told us of a supplier from Maniwaki, who comes into the various lumber camps with supplies. If contact could be made with the supplier, this would eliminate the need to run to the store, and also provide for a mail delivery.
- The one drawback is transportation of boys from the Abitibi bus run into the base. This may be eliminated by contacting the C.I.P. bus used to transport workers. This should be investigated, and the locating of a base in this area considered.
- If deemed necessary, the site could be explored again this year.

B - Tripping:

Reservoir travel is not recommended for extended periods, but provides a break from the monotony developed by extensive lake and river travel. High winds when in these areas give exciting paddling in high waves and an opportunity for sailing.

Campsites are plentiful in most areas, except the flooded regions.

The area gives unbounded variety, including ricers, creeks, big and small lakes, trekking, portages - (100 yds to 2 or 3 miles) - and rapids to shoot.

VI - PROGRAM

A- General:

A general pattern of program this year was, three days in base for training; a short three to five day trip; return to base for two or three days, and out again for a long trip; and back to base two or three days before leaving. As mentioned before, this was the general pattern, and by no means the final or decisive word, or necessarily followed by all groups.

During the second period, general instruction was given by various leaders on camp skills. This was done with mixed groups, and the feeling was that the group leader would be best to do this using his own group for aid.

It was felt that a group orientation to the setting and to each other, and the equipment is necessary. This should be flexible and depend on what the boys want. The first short trip was meant to do this, and be a climax to the orientation. There was never a fine line drawn around orientation, it was just the natural thing to do.

The leaders were unanimous in mentioning that the Voyageurs should be a "bush camping group) and not a "canoe tripping group". Bush camping stresses campcraft, hiking and canoeing for a means of transportation.

The leader can establish his groups camping level, and set goals. Goals can be raised as the group progresses. The rule of the "I's" was established, and proved to be all inclusive - Initiation, Imagination and Inventiveness, these were the main requirements of a group and it's leader.

B - Work Aids:

The camper and group development forms (See Appendix 5 & 6) established and used at Kamp Kanawana, were used by all leaders. They were of more use to the leader himself, than to anyone else. They allowed or perhaps forced him to take a look at the group, and by this the weak areas were re-emphasized, and further work could be done in the area. There were a good reminder, and gave a lift to the leader when an improvement was noted in a group or individual.

C - Grouping Methods:

With our two periods, we tried two methods of grouping. First, the trial and error method, whereby boys of equal ability and experience were grouped. This was done by the leaders, and the groups were formed the first night.

With the second group, we used the more scientific way; using a sociogram, and the boys personal choice. The first day the boys were observed, and a sociogram was made. The groups were formed, the leader assigned and groups announced. Any unsatisfied persons were heard and changes made.

It was generally agreed that the former method was more efficient, if less democratic. There were no advantages observed to the second method, and the delay in grouping aroused some confusion, which may have been detrimental.

This is a question with which future leaders will have to deal and experiment. The hope is that they will come to a more concrete solution. Most of the leaders agree however, that the first method was if not the best, the most practical for our purposes.

VII - PLACEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

To aid in the selection of staff for Kanawana next year, recommendations were made as to the boys which we felt were capable of Counsellor's jobs, Junior Counsellors-in-training program, or those who should return to Les Voyageurs for another year before entering the Junior Counsellor-in-training program.

- 1 - Recommended for Counsellor - Paul Tutsch.
- 2 - Recommended for Junior Counsellor-in-training program:

George Griffiths	Jim Smallwood
Laird Brown	Bernie Achtman
Ronnie Brown	John Patton
Dave Sides	Tim Weisbord

- 3 - Recommended to return to Voyageurs:

Colin Lewis	Gary Davies
Dave McClymont	Bob Pepper
Bob Schuyler	Steven Gruber
Dave Snasdell-Taylor	Ron Foreman
Ray Green	Dick Kerr
Peter Polovchik	Howard Strothard
Richard Dumas	Ken Mackenzie
Yvan Aird	

Appendix # 2

LIST OF VOYAGEURS '60

First Period

Leonard Bazar
Peter Brown
Charles Wakefield
David Sides
Glenn Lane - Leader

John Garon
Hubert Langlois
Ken Mackenzie
John Dubsky
Yvan Aird
Art Perry - Leader

Bob Pepper
Ron Foreman
Steve Gruber
Tim Weisbord
Jack Organ - Leader

Dave Snasdell-Taylor
Bob Schuyler
Dave McClymont
Colin Lewis
George Griffiths
Roger Wilson - Leader

Second Period

Ron Rosenthal
Jim Smallwood
Dick Dumas
Pete Polovchik
Sandy Hoskins
Glenn Lane - Leader

Peter Marosi
Paul Tutsch
John Patton
Bernie Achtman
Art Perry - Leader

Howard Strothard
Dick Kerr
Gary Davies
Ray Green
Jack Organ - Leader

Ron Blofield
Len Thyer
Charles Prosser
Ronnie Brown
Laird Brown
Roger Wilson - Leader

Appendix # 3

LIST OF EQUIPMENT FOR EACH TENT GROUP

2 Tent
2 Tent fly
2 canoes
6 packs
6 packs (small)
6 bowls
6 plates
6 cups
6 forks
6 spoons
2 knives
2 pots and covers
2 fry pan
1 dish pan
1 machete
1 axe
1 shovel
1 egg lifter

~~1 set measuring spoons~~
1 sponge bowl
1 can opener
1 canoe patcher
1 reflector oven
1 axe files
1 salt shaker
1 serving spoon
1 map reader
1 compass
1 whet stone
10 rubber bags
1 set first aid supplies

None

Base Camp Supplies

2 canoes
1 outboard
2 canvas tents & flies
2 gas tanks
1 life-jacket
1 coleman stove
2 coleman lamps
4 plywood boxes
1 rake
1 hammer
1 buck saw
4 pots
2 water pails

4 cots
1 screwdriver set
1 shovel
1 role rope
7 - 8" x 30" stove pipes
2 - 8" elbows
1 - minnow bucket
1 broom
1 coaloil lamp
2 - 2 cell lamps
1 - 3 volt flashlight
18 paddles
6 fishing rods

Appendix # 4

FIRST AID SUPPLIES IN ORIGINAL ORDER

6 Boxes absorbent cotton
6 bottles vaseline
6 boxes 4" gauze
6 boxes 2" gauze
2 boxes gauze pads
6 bottles green soap
6 thermometers
5 boxes band-aids
6 bottles Kalpec
4 bottles Eno
5 boxes adhesive tape 2"
5 tubes Calagestic
6 pr. pliers
5 sewing needles & thread
3 boxes triangular bandages
2 doz. wax candles
1 pr. sissors

Recommend - 1 tube of Ozonol first aid dressing per group.

- A larger kit with more variety of supplies for base camp.
- Cotton swabs
- throat lozenges
- Aspirins or 2'22's